

Amendment No. 1 to SB2639

**Harper
Signature of Sponsor**

AMEND Senate Bill No. 2639

House Bill No. 2617*

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and substituting the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 58-1-102, is amended by inserting the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() "Nonprofit veteran comprehensive service provider" means a nonprofit corporation organized and operating in this state, which, alone, or through a joint venture with other nonprofit corporations, faith-based organizations, or service providers, provides at least the following services:

(A) Counseling and veteran support groups for veterans through educational, religious, or charitable nonprofit organizational settings, or on the premises of, or related to, any veteran community housing or affordable housing project or development for or accessible to veterans;

(B)

(i) Develops and manages affordable veteran community housing including, but not limited to, apartments, condominiums, homes, or group homes;
or

(ii) Develops and manages affordable housing where at least fifty percent (50%) of the tenants, occupants, owners, renters, or lessees of the housing units are rented, leased, or sold to, or occupied by, a veteran;

(C) Provides bus and transportation services for veterans, including:

(i) Outreach and field offices through bus mobile offices to locate veterans, set up for screenings, establish information, help veterans file for

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veterans' benefits, and prepare for employment opportunities;

(ii) Transporting veterans to and from transitional housing to counseling, doctor visits, educational facilities, and job interviews or employment; and

(iii) Service for the unserved and underserved populations and communities in this state consisting of veterans without adequate transportation and without regular or convenient bus services;

(D) Includes a nonprofit corporation organized for educational purposes that is engaged in educating veterans, including, but not limited to, homeless veterans, mentally or physically impaired veterans, the families of veterans, and the public with information concerning resources to assist such veterans in addressing their comprehensive needs;

(E) Provides income opportunities, job, career, coaching, mentoring, and employment counseling to veterans, particularly to homeless veterans including, where homeless, an opportunity to earn income through the distribution, employment, or contract services for veteran educational publications;

(F) Provides educational counseling including transitional and screening counseling for veterans to qualify for educational benefits and communication assistance with the colleges, community colleges, and universities of this state, and such institutions' respective offices of veteran student affairs or similar offices;

(G) Develops veteran publications and performs printing services for veterans and veterans' organizations, churches, nonprofits, and others assisting veterans, which publications describe all types of organizations that provide comprehensive services to

veterans and their families in this state; and

(H) Provides employment, independent contractor opportunities, or supervised work on-site job opportunities for veterans through veteran housing development projects.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 58, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as new sections:

58-1-120.

(a) There is hereby created the office of veterans comprehensive services grant administration within the department of veterans services. The office shall be administratively attached to the department of veterans services.

(b)

(1) Within sixty (60) days of July 1, 2016, the commissioner of veterans services shall hire a director of the office of veterans comprehensive services grant administration.

(2) The director of the office of veterans comprehensive services grant administration shall possess, at a minimum, a master-level degree in the field of public administration and two (2) years' experience in an executive capacity in a nonprofit corporation, government agency, association, or other entity that provides counseling, financial assistance, income opportunities, educational counseling, veteran newspaper publications, career or employment counseling, transitional housing for veterans, affordable housing alternatives, or other forms of assistance to the public including but not limited to veterans.

(c)

(1) The director of the office of veterans comprehensive services grant administration shall hire an assistant director.

(2) The assistant director shall possess, at a minimum:

(A) A high school education;

(B) One (1) year of college, vocational technical, or university training; and

(C) Four (4) years' experience in the field of accounting, personnel, business services, nonprofit organization, insurance administration, or nonprofit or governmental service.

(d)

(1) The purpose of the office of veterans comprehensive services grant administration is to identify and provide financial grants to nonprofit corporations in this state that provide comprehensive services to veterans in this state.

(2) Subject to appropriations, the office of veterans comprehensive services grant administration shall disburse direct grants to nonprofit veteran comprehensive service providers organized and operating in this state. The office shall strive to disburse no less than three grants in equal amounts.

58-1-121.

(a) There is hereby created a veterans faith-based initiatives office within the department of veterans services. The office shall be administratively attached to the department of veterans services.

(b) The functions of the veterans faith-based initiatives office shall be to identify churches, religious organizations, and nonprofit religious corporations that provide counseling services, food, clothing, temporary housing, transportation, inspirational or motivational veteran support groups and seminars to and for veterans and their families; and to publish, communicate and make the

information of such faith-based veteran services available to veterans and their families.

(c)

(1) Within sixty (60) days of July 1, 2016, the commissioner of veterans services shall either hire a director of the veterans faith-based initiatives office or obtain the services of a person to perform the director's duties pursuant to subdivision (c)(3).

(2) If the director hires a director of the veterans faith-based initiatives office, the director shall possess, at a minimum:

(A) A master-level degree in the field of public administration;

(B) A master-level degree in the arts with a major in psychology; and

(C) Four (4) years' experience in managing a nonprofit religious organization that provides counseling services in a church or religious organizational setting, and preferably with experience that includes participating, attending, coordinating with, and speaking to religious associations in this state.

(3) Instead of hiring a director, the commissioner may contract with a private party to perform the functions of the director of the veterans faith-based initiatives office or issue a grant for the performance of such functions to a person or nonprofit corporation, which person or, in the case of a nonprofit corporation, whose executive officer in this state possesses the qualifications identified in subdivision (c)(2).

(d)

(1) There is hereby created the office of assistant director of the

veterans faith-based initiatives office that shall be subordinate to the director of the office or other person who is contracted or issued a grant to perform the director's duties under subdivision (c)(3).

(2) The assistant director of the veterans faith-based initiatives office shall possess, at a minimum:

(A) A high school education;

(B) One (1) year of college, vocational technical, or university training; and

(C) Four (4) years' experience in the field of nonprofit organizational officer to a religious nonprofit corporation, church, or religious institution.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016, the public welfare requiring it.